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MARLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year 1948





MARLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Court Garden,
Marlow,
Bucks.

August, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Marlow Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report
as your Medical Officer of Health.

The work detailed in this Report was undertaken by
predecessors Dr. F.H.P. Wills and Dr. R.T. Sheehan.

The Birth Rate for the year 1948 was again slightly
in excess of the general birth rate for England and Wales, the comparative
figures being 18.3 and 17.9 respectively. The Infant Mortality Rate
at 42.7 appears unfavourable against the general rate of 34, but I would
point out to you that when such small figures as we are here dealing with
are taken to represent "rates", no very real statistical significance can
be imputed. For example, had the absolute figure for this rate been one
less, i.e. had four children died instead of five, the infant mortality
rate would have been the same as that for England and Wales.

The Death Rate too, was again slightly greater than
that for England and Wales, being 12.5 against 10.8 but was less than the
figure recorded in last year's Report. Heart diseases and Cancer headed
the list as the principal causes of death and Cancer alone accounted for
16.25⁷/₈ of the total.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis remained
constant at 5, but this year all cases were of the respiratory type.
As I have pointed out above a statistical conclusion drawn from such small
figures would be invalid; but this figure is in conformity with the trend
which has been shown in other parts of the country. This trend indicates
two aspects of the problem of Tuberculosis, (i) a decrease in the
notification rate of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, due almost certainly to
the stringent supervision of sanitary inspectors and veterinary surgeons
of milk production, and the public demand for the higher grades of milk;
(ii) the persistent existence of sub-standard housing conditions with
resultant overcrowding and a more advantageous medium for the dissemination
of the human tubercle bacillus. As we are all aware, housing is today
the most major problem in domestic policy and until it is satisfactorily
solved the great resultant advances in the public health will be
accordingly retarded. Your Council have taken firm steps along this road
to solution and I hope that the next Report will shew even greater
advances.

No woman lost her life as a result of childbirth.

Measles with 93 cases and whooping-cough with 11,
continued to be the outstanding infectious diseases of the year. There
was one notification of diphtheria but no fatalities. Immunisation
against diphtheria and whooping-cough is being carried out in all schools
and clinics and by the general practitioners in your District. Although
still in the experimental stage, the results of immunisation against
whooping cough shew considerable hope of a reduction at least in the
severity of this disease.

My thanks are due to Mr. C. Kelvin Smith, your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for his work throughout the year and for the assistance he has given me in the preparation of this Report.

F.H.M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A T I S T I C S

Area in Acres	1,664
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid-year 1948	6,382
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books (end of 1948)	1,869
Rateable Value	£44,657
Estimated product of Penny Rate	£184

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1948

BIRTHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	56	54	110
	Illegitimate	4	3	7
		60	57	117
Still Births	Legitimate	-	1	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
			1	1

The Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population	18.3
The General Birth Rate of England and Wales	17.9

DEATHS

No. of deaths	-	Males	42
		Females	38
		Total	80

The death rate per 1000 of the estimated population	12.5
The General Death Rate of England and Wales	10.8

TABLE OF DEATHS

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	3	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis..	-	-	-
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	-	-	-
Cancer	8	5	13
Diabetes	-	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	5	8	13
Heart Diseases	12	13	25
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	2	4

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	-	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	-	1
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	-	-	-
Other Maternal causes	-	-	-
Premature Births	-	-	-
Congenital malformations and birth injuries	2	2	4
Suicide	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-
Other violent causes	1	-	1
All other Causes	2	1	3

CANCER

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1948 Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	8	5	13
1947 Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	3	4	7

The distribution of death related to organs, was as follows:-

Buccal cavity and oesophagus	1
Uterus	1
Stomach and duodenum	2
Breast	1
Other sites	8

The number of women dying in consequence of childbirth:-

(a) From puerperal sepsis	0
(b) From all other maternal causes	0

INFANT MORTALITY

5 Infants died under the age of one year - 3 males
2 females

This represents an infant mortality rate of 12.7 per thousand related births, compared with 34 per thousand in England and Wales.

MARLOW U.D.C.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1948

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1		1						
5								
10								
15						1		
20	1				1	2		
25	1							
35		1						
45		1			1			
55								
65+								
Totals:	2	3			2	3		

These figures represent a Tuberculosis Death rate of 0.94 per 1000 population compared with 0.51 in England and Wales.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1948)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	54	39	93
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Whooping-cough	6	5	11
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	1	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	-	1
	61	48	109

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Immunisation against diphtheria (and, where desirable, whooping-cough) continues to be carried out in schools and the Infant Welfare Centre, in your District, by arrangements made with the Bucks County Council. It is also optional for all persons to choose to have this service performed by their elected doctor under the National Health Service Act (1946). Completed record cards are now required to be returned to the County Health Department by all services, and returns relevant to specific districts are not at the moment available.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

The Ambulance arrangements for your District, made under proposals submitted by the County Council in accordance with Section 27 of the National Health Service Act (1946) and approved by the Ministry of Health are those which were already in existence before the appointed day.

- (a) For Infectious Cases:- An Ambulance is supplied by the Wycombe and District Joint Hospital Board for service in the Borough of High Wycombe, and the Urban Districts of Beaconsfield and Marlow and the Rural District of Wycombe. The facilities are adequate for the areas served.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases:- An Ambulance is maintained for accidents and routine transport by the Local Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Ambulances are also available from Bourne End and the adjoining Boroughs of High Wycombe and Henley-on-Thames. These services are satisfactory.

With the advent of the National Health Service Act, the Council ceased to be a constituent authority of the Wycombe and District Joint Hospital Board, which was, until that date, responsible for the management of the Booker Infectious Diseases Hospital.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The first part of the history of the United States of America is the period from the discovery of the continent by Christopher Columbus in 1492 to the establishment of the first permanent settlements. This period is characterized by the exploration of the continent by Spanish, French, and English explorers, and the establishment of the first permanent settlements by the English in 1607. The second part of the history is the period from the establishment of the first permanent settlements to the American Revolution in 1776. This period is characterized by the growth of the colonies, the struggle for independence, and the establishment of the United States as a new nation. The third part of the history is the period from the American Revolution to the present. This period is characterized by the development of the United States as a major world power, the expansion of its territory, and the growth of its economy and population.

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WATER SUPPLIES

Water is supplied by the deep wells of the Marlow Water Company. It is estimated that 1,805 houses are supplied direct from the public mains, representing $96\frac{5}{8}$ per cent of the inhabited houses. Analyses of the water supplied show it to be of a high standard of purity. It has been adequate in quantity. In all, 12 samples were taken throughout the year.

During the year under review the Marlow Water Company undertook the removal of the old gas plant installed in 1898, so that the existing well could be enlarged for the eventual replacement of the old gas plant by additional electrical plant. Consumption during the year showed an increase of 3 compared with the previous year. The rest level in No. 2 borehole was taken in December 1948 and proved to be almost the same level as in 1922 when pumping from that bore hole commenced.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The laboratory facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford, are available for all investigations carried out on behalf of the Council. Arrangements are made direct with the Laboratory for the transport of material. Periodic use has also been made of the Camberwell Research Laboratories.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Sewerage Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily.

HOSPITALS

The available Hospitals in the district are the Metropolitan Hospitals, the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. In addition, there is the Marlow Cottage Hospital.

STATEMENT OF WORKS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR UNDER ARTICLE 27 OF THE SANITARY OFFICERS ORDER, 1935.

Actions and Sections.	Notices served		Complied with		Not complied with		In progress	
	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
P.H. Act 1936 Sect. 58	4	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sect. 75	79	Nil	71	Nil	Nil	Nil	8	Nil
Sect. 92	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Housing Act 1936, Sect. 9	39	6	25	2	8	4	6	Nil
TOTAL	122	6	100	2	8	4	14	Nil

During the year under review the number of housing inspections increased due to the appointment of a Temporary Technical Assistant in the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Department. Further, it was possible to ensure that informal requisitions were complied with by regular inspections and repeated applications to the Owner or Agents in the matter of repairs.

MILK SUPPLIES

Periodic inspections have been carried out of farms and dairies, and inspections arising from complaints.

MEAT

During the year inspections of carcasses at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the District have been maintained and the undermentioned amounts of meat have been condemned:-

<u>BEEF</u>	<u>MUTTON</u>	<u>PORK</u>	<u>LIVERS</u>	<u>OFFAL</u>	<u>VEAL</u>
6,474 lbs.	224 lbs.	544 lbs.	4,415½ lbs.	5,335 lbs.	24 lbs.

During the year the number of kills at this slaughterhouse were as follows:-

<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>	<u>CALVES</u>	<u>PIGS</u>
1,549	3,097	747	18

OTHER FOODS

During the year the Sanitary Inspector has issued 70 Condemnation Notes in respect of foodstuffs condemned. These certificate in the main, relate to canned foods.

FOOD POISONING

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during 1948.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Two additional factories have been opened up during the year and entered in the Register of Factories in the District. Factories appearing on the Register have been inspected from time to time.

HOUSING

(i) Unfit Dwelling-Houses.

(a) The total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	39
(b) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be not fit for human habitation	Nil
(c) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	Nil

(d)	Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39
(ii)	<u>Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.</u>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of informal action being taken by Local Authority or their Officers	25
(iii)	<u>Action taken under Statutory Powers.</u>	
(a)	<u>Proceedings under Sect. 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices have been served requiring repairs	6
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit by owner	2
(b)	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were found and notices served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:	
	By Owners	Nil
	By Local Authority in Default	Nil
(c)	<u>Proceedings under Sects. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d)	<u>Proceedings under Sect. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined but tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
(e)	<u>Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding.</u>	
	The incidence of overcrowding would appear to be lessening due to the return of many families to areas from which they were during the War evacuated either compulsorily or voluntarily.	

STAFF CHANGES

Dr. F.H.P. Wills retired from the position of Medical Officer of Health in July, 1948, and was succeeded as an interim measure by Dr. R.T. Sheehan until 31st January, 1949, when Dr. F.H.M. Dummer was appointed. No other changes in Staff have occurred during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F.H.M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health

